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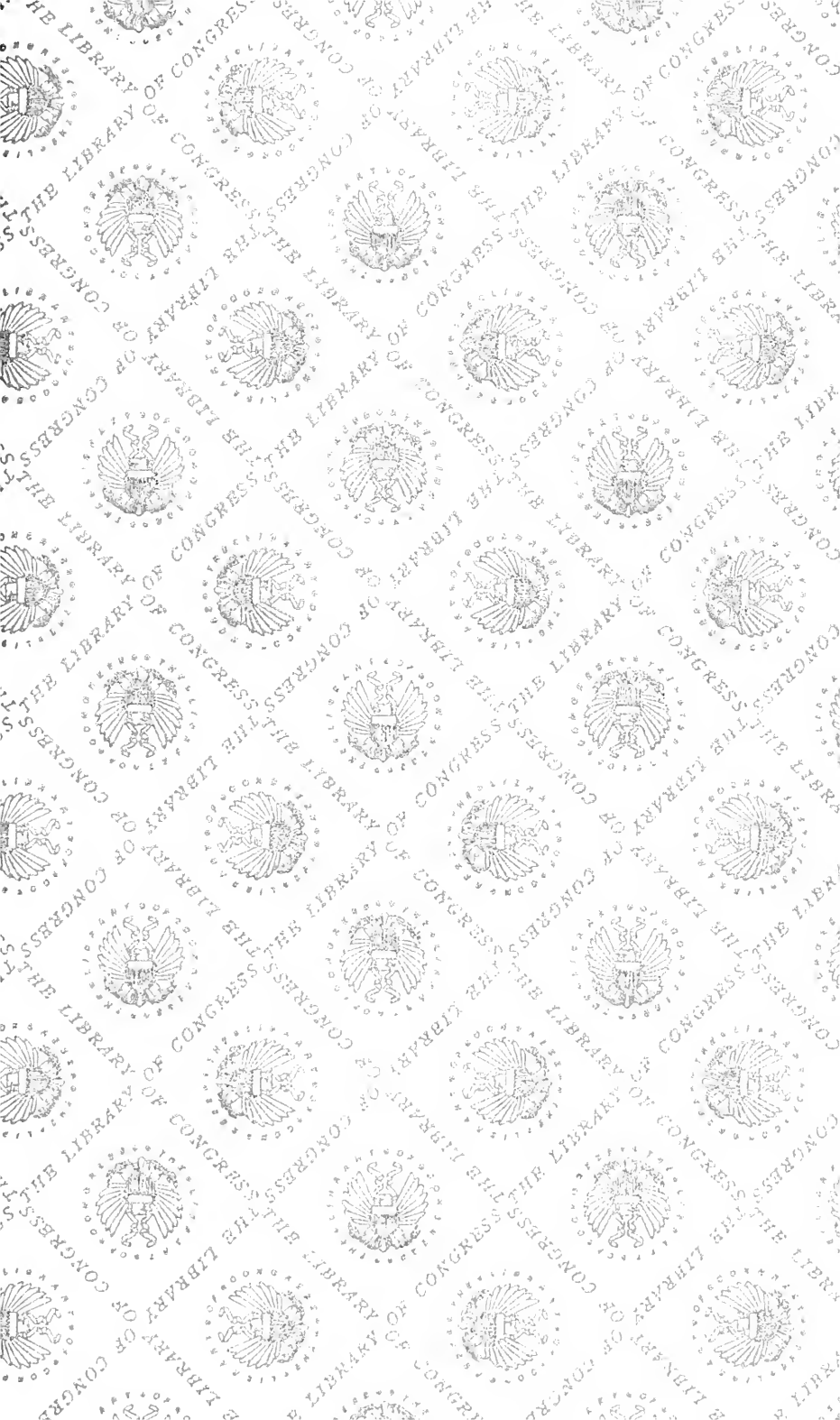
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**SLAVERY**

**CONSISTENT**

WITH

**CHRISTIANITY.**

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**BY THE REV. LEANDER KERR.**

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## TO THE PUBLIC.

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The following is the substance of a Lecture delivered some time ago, before my congregation in McConnellsburg. At that time I was delivering a course of lectures on the nature of the Redeemer's kingdom, and the gospel dispensation. The question of slavery would necessarily come in my way; and its *consistency* or *inconsistency* with Christianity claim serious attention. And in this lecture, which is devoted exclusively to the examination of the question of slavery, I solemnly declare to my Lord and Master, that I have uttered nothing but the honest convictions of my heart in reference to this subject—convictions too, the result of long and patient investigation. Yet I may be wrong, for who in all things can say: "*I am right!*"

As I have been frequently solicited by many persons to give this lecture to the public, I have yielded—and now send it forth for what it is worth. I am well aware that the *designation* of this lecture will horrify the anti-slavery party; but I would just inform them that the time was when I was as much opposed to slavery as the most violent of them now are, but my hostility was the result of *ignorance, prejudice and education*.

And it is extremely unfortunate that the *locale* of this agitated question is where slavery is not; and that for two reasons. The first is, that the anti-slavery party, as a body, are ignorant of the character of slavery, and the condition of the slaves at this time, in our country: and, therefore, they are incompetent to sit in judgment on such a question. "Their zeal is not according to knowledge."

The second reason is, that living remote from the seat of slavery, and being unconnected with the slave-holders, there are none of those tender and affectionate ties existing between the two parties, of a social and personal character, which go so far in neutralizing our evil dispositions, and which would enable the anti-slavery party to judge more dispassionately and correctly. And were their opinions of slavery the result of personal observation and knowledge, that sympathy which is given exclusively to the slaves would be divided with their masters, or, for the most part, would be found without a just cause for existence.

THE AUTHOR.

*Lastly Hall, near Mercersburg, Pa., 1840.*



## LECTURE.

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From time immemorial, the origin of the negro, with the cause of his complexion and features, has been involved in mystery as dark as his hue—and to reveal which, seems almost as hopeless as his destiny. And were we able to arrive with absolute certainty at the former, it would go but a little way to alleviate the adverse circumstances of the latter. He appears to be an anomaly in the human family—the child of sorrow, and the recipient of wrong. And, like his fairer brethren, seemingly suffering the consequences of some act of transgression committed by his progenitor—the cup not yet being drained.

Before we enter upon the question before us, it may neither be irrelevant, nor unprofitable to devote part of our time to an inquiry respecting the origin of this part of the human race. And turning aside from all the theories on the subject, we will go to the Bible, and see whether it sheds any light on this dark, and inexplicable question.

I therefore call your attention to certain transactions recorded in the ix. chapter of Genesis, from the 18th verse to the end, as follows: *“And the sons of Noah that went out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan. These are the three sons of Noah; and of them was the whole earth overspread. And Noah planted a vineyard, and began to be a husbandman, and he drank of the wine, and was drunken. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. And Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered their father, and saw not their father’s nakedness. And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him: and he said cursed be Canaan, a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. And he said blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japheth, he shall dwell in the tents of Shem, and Canaan shall be his servant.*

The first thing that claims our attention in this narrative, is the *names* of the three sons of Noah. In simple and primitive times, names were not as now, arbitrary and unmeaning terms, but were descriptive of the moral and physical qualities of the persons and things to which they were applied: this was a universal custom among all nations of antiquity. And Ham denoted *black* or *burned*. *Ham!* it is black! We assume the fact then, and we will furnish the reasons immediately—that this name was given to the younger son of Noah because of his color; and we may easily conceive that Noah would exclaim *Ham!* on seeing his son for the first time. And it could not be expected that Noah would regard this child with the same paternal tenderness with which he regarded the others: and this may go very far to explain, if not palliate, the conduct of Ham in exposing his father's shame: and the resentment that would be superadded upon Noah's mortification, on discovering the offender, would well prepare the mind of the father for uttering those imprecations "loud and deep" upon his graceless child.

Permit me here to make a few remarks on the nature and extent of this curse; which may appear too severe to be just, and too cruel to have received the sanction and approbation of Heaven. You must consider that this crime of Ham was the first transgression recorded after the flood, and probably the first committed; and you must remember, in the next place, that Noah now was to the world what Adam was, when created—the official head—the *vicegerent* of Heaven—and, therefore, the first deliberate and wilful offence, as in the case of Adam, according to the moral government of God, must be punished with the utmost rigor of law. I do not consider the intoxication of Noah, on this occasion, as criminal, because he must have been ignorant of the nature of wine—never, perhaps, having tasted any before: and, in the last place, you must bear in mind that the crime of disobeying, insulting and mocking parents, is second only to disobeying, insulting and mocking God; and, under the law, such a son or daughter was to be stoned to death.

Next came the names of Shem and Japheth; and that Japheth was white, and Shem red, will appear evident, from the following facts. The three quarters of the globe were divided among the three sons of Noah; to Ham was assigned Africa, to Shem Asia, and to Japheth Europe: and to this day, the *three* colors of our race are to be found in these three divisions, denoting the origin whence they came.

True, Canaan settled on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean

sea; but neither does this, nor the fact that he and his posterity might be brown or yellow, invalidate our general argument: we know that Ham settled in Egypt; and there is every reason to suppose that his brethren and their posterity, would show but little favor to him and his posterity; but would very soon avail themselves of all the real and supposed privileges that the curse, denounced upon Ham and his posterity, gives them; and would expel them from the rich lands of the Nile into the southern and less desirable sections of Africa.

To substantiate these scriptural facts respecting the origin of the negro, permit me to give you a tradition which I found among the Seminole Indians in Florida, as follows: "When the great spirit had created the earth and all its animals, he concluded to make man, who should be lord and master of the whole. But as the first man he made was black, and not being well pleased with him, he proceeded to make a second, whom he made red; but not being satisfied with the improvement, he created a third—and him he made white, with whom he was well pleased. The great spirit then presented to these men three boxes—the first of which contained books, the second bows and arrows, and the third hoes and axes. And as the white man was the great spirit's favorite, he had the first choice; and he selected the box of books. The red man was allowed the second choice—who took the bows and arrows: and the negro had to take the hoes and axes; and now, say these Indians, the white man lives by books, the red man by hunting, and the black man by labor—and such they believe to be the will of the Great Spirit—hence the reason why these Indians never would receive teachers and missionaries among them. And there has recently been discovered a nation of negroes in central Africa, holding the same tradition; both traditions acknowledging the *superiority* of the white man over the other two, as well as the *inferiority* of the black to the red.

We will now advance a physiological argument in support of what has already been said, containing the reason for the color of the negro.

There is every reason to believe that an additional curse was inflicted on the earth by the flood, and that very great changes must have been produced in the physiology of the earth—in her climate and atmosphere. God did curse the ground when Adam sinned: and from the fearful increase of crime, both in quantity and quality, he found it necessary to increase and extend the curse, in such a man-

ner, that, by multiplying the physical disabilities in the way of obtaining the necessities of life, as well as by multiplying the causes tending to the abbreviation of human life, there would be a diminution in crime individually and collectively: and as in wisdom and benevolence, he inflicted the *first* curse on the earth, so also in wisdom and benevolence, he inflicted the second, because the first was insufficient. And after the infliction of the last curse on the ground, he tells Noah that he would no more curse it for man's sake.

When God determined to destroy the old world by a flood, and to change the character of the earth, by increasing or creating physical disabilities not existing before—he would find it necessary to change also the physical economy of the human family, or at least a part of that family, in order that they might be prepared to meet this contemplated contingency. And it is a well established fact, which the science of physiology fully explains, that the negro, in virtue of his peculiar constitution, color and temperament, is well adapted to the tropical and torrid regions. And this we conceive to be the reason of his color and temperament. This argument will have due weight with the honest and intelligent physiologist. But perhaps some who cannot perceive, or will not admit, the argument, will smile at such an exposition: to such I would remark; if God accommodates the polar bear to his habitation of endless ice and snow, and qualifies the stormy petrel for its ocean home, would he show less wisdom and benevolence in fitting man by temperament and otherwise, for a residence under the burning line?

But perhaps some will think that I would infer from the preceding argument, that Ham and his posterity were created for slavery: to this I indignantly answer, *no*—no more than I believe and teach that God created the antediluvians for the pleasure of drowning them, or the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorah for the pleasure of burning them, or a part of the human family, for the pleasure of damning them. There is a very great difference between *what* God desires and commands men to do, and *what* they perform: and his will and purposes are not always fulfilled. His will is that man should keep his commandments and love one another, which is not always done; and his pleasure is that all men should be saved through his son, who has tasted death for every man, and who offers pardon, life and heaven to all—for all are under condemnation; and yet many will go away into everlasting perdition. Men who talk and write in magnificent phrase about the omnipotency, omniscency and omnipre-

sence of God, take it always for granted that Jehovah makes these abstract qualities the rule of his conduct, overlooking the great fact that God is a *moral* not a *physical* being; and that he makes fixed and eternal *moral* principles, not *physical* ones, the rule of his conduct. And having created us rational and intelligent beings, he acts toward us on such rational and intellectual principles as we can understand. He, therefore, created and fitted Ham for a peculiarity of climate which he contemplated in the destruction of the world; but the conduct of Ham, with the curse upon him and his posterity, were all incidents by the way; and were *no more* a part of the divine plan and arrangement, than murder, theft and injustice occurring under the moral government of God, is a part of that government. Ham, like Adam, brought himself into his sad dilemma; both having been created for better things: nor are they the only specimens of our race who have frustrated the will and purpose of their Creator, though they are the only *two* whose delinquencies have reached so far and wide.

We will call your attention back again to a few more particulars in the ix. chapter of Genesis, 26th and 27th verses. "*Blessed be the Lord God of Shem, and Canaan shall be his servant.*"

In the Asiatic courts and harems, black mutes and eunuchs are preferred as slaves, who are literally the servants of Shem; and servants too under the most painful and humiliating circumstances. But the most remarkable prediction in this memorable transaction is contained in the 27th verse. "*God shall enlarge the borders of Japheth; he shall dwell in the tents of Shem, and Canaan shall be his servant.*"

It is a settled point now that our American Indians are the descendants of the Asiatics, or the children of Shem—and we know that the Europeans are the children of Japheth. And God did *literally* enlarge the borders of Japheth, when he raised up Columbus to discover America. And now, *we, the posterity of Japheth, are literally dwelling in the tents or places of Shem; and Canaan is our servant.*

But it is worthy of remark and of digression from our subject, that this prediction of the enlargement of the borders of Japheth, and his dwelling in the tents of Shem are in our own day receiving a further fulfilment.

In looking at the blessing pronounced, Japheth was ultimately to have the pre-eminence even to the supplanting of Shem. Now,

this has been fulfilled to the letter in our own country; and it is about to be fulfilled too in Asia.

The two greatest powers in Europe, or the world, Russia and England, are making rapid inroads upon the Asiatic provinces: the latter at this time controls little less than two hundred millions of people in that section of the globe. While the Russian eagle, as hungry and insatiable as Albion's lion, is whetting his bill and pluming himself for a flight, and a banquet on the land of Shem, the fate of Asia is inevitable. The tents of Shem there, as here, will be occupied by his younger brother—and that obscure and unknown spot on which this memorable prediction was uttered, will witness its final consummation. Let the infidel and sceptic look at these facts.

Canaan, it is said in the 25th verse, "*shall be a servant of servants to his brethren.*" This is a singular prediction, but most singularly fulfilled, as I have seen both in the South and West Indies; where, on large cotton, coffee or sugar plantations, the slaves are divided in companies with a leader over them of their own color, who is also a slave, and is responsible to his overseer, or master. And these leaders, in general, are far more severe to their fellow slaves than their masters or overseers are.

And, in some parts of the West Indies, many free negroes are owners of many slaves, who were formerly slaves themselves.

Nor is this all—for, Canaan was to be a servant to his brethren, Shem and Japheth—all of which I have seen fulfilled: as the Creeks, Cherokees and Seminoles have many slaves among them.

These facts satisfy my own mind of the truth of our theory; and they are submitted to your consideration.

It may be necessary for the information of some of our hearers to make some remarks relative to the first introduction of slaves into this country.

The first slaves brought here, were prisoners taken in war among the African tribes, and, according to the universal custom among all savage nations, these prisoners had, by the fortune and rules of war, forfeited *life* and *liberty*, and were at the mercy of their captors to be killed, sold into slavery, or retained for their pleasure or service, just as passion, interest or caprice might rule them. The same privilege was also given to the Jews by a law of the commonwealth of Israel. Those Africans, then, who were first imported into this country, were *not* made slaves by that transaction: it was the fortune of war, that made them such: they were the property of their conquer-

ers, who availed themselves of the privileges which the usages of war give; and who preferred *selling* to *killing* them. Now keep in mind that these prisoners had, as already stated, lost all personal liberty forever, by the fortune of war—and that they were as much the property of their captors as any other property their captors had; there was neither violence nor wrong done in *selling* them; and whether there was any wrong done in *buying* them, resolves itself into this simple question, whether it would have been better to have suffered those prisoners to have been butchered in cold blood, or to buy them, and thereby save their lives: by the latter alternative their condition remained as it was; but by the former it was a death with no alternative. This is the question at issue, and, like all similar questions, its answer will depend upon the moral temperaments of the casuists who agitate it. There are but few men, however, who will not prefer the loss of liberty to the loss of life: for this simple and all-sufficient reason, that the captive *may* recover his liberty—but from death's domain there is no return.

These, then, were the circumstances under which slavery was introduced into our country. But afterward the most iniquitous measures were adopted to procure the requisite number—measures that none but a demon incarnate, would either use or justify—and measures too still pursued. But we must discriminate justly between the manner in which slaves were first obtained, and subsequently procured.

But, seeing they are among us, let us see whether the retaining of them in slavery is consistent with Christianity or not. And we are assured that a question of such importance can be answered in no other way than by a reference to scriptural statement and scriptural practice.

But I am well aware of the difficulty that lies in our path, from the fact that scriptural statements and examples are often lost sight of and disregarded, when sectarian and partizan measures are to be carried into effect, and men find it very convenient to erect a standard and frame rules founded upon abstract biblical propositions, and inferential deductions that shall suit their purposes, and arm them with authority to carry out all their plans, and justify themselves in all their conduct; although, by so doing, they nullify some of the first and best principles of Christianity, as well as violate the essential laws of humanity, of which all persecutions for conscience' sake are the proof. The Bible is very far from being the *only* rule of faith and

practice, even among Protestants; else why so many different faiths? so many antagonistical systems of theology? So many contradictory forms of church policy? and last, but not least, so much *wrath, contention, strife* and *jangling*, all about words—which discussion only darkens, and explanations mystify? and the church of Christ, that should be the *focus* of peace, holiness and love, resembles the arena of vulgar politics.

To the “law and the testimony” we will go, and from them take nothing but *example and precept*.

And the first example of slavery we have here, is in the family of Abraham, “*the father of the faithful*”—the church of Christ—nor could the whole number of his slaves have been small, seeing he had *three hundred and eighteen born in his own house, or BOUGHT WITH HIS MONEY, that were fit for war*. So then, even father Abraham was a *trafficker in human flesh*.

The next prominent example we have is Job, whose slaves must have amounted to several thousands; and yet this man had the most honorable testimony of his God, as being “*a perfect and upright man, one that feared God and eschewed evil*.” Now, if to hold slaves is among the greatest of sins, as the anti-slavery party affirm it is, then God’s testimony respecting Job’s *eschewing evil*, is false and hypocritical; and, according to the standard of abolitionists for graduating the degrees of criminality that attaches itself to slave-holders, Job must have been the greatest sinner in the land of “Uz”—and Satan the greatest fool for trying to get *one* already so securely his own. But the abolitionists must pardon us for *preferring* the testimony of God to their affirmations.

But it may be replied that these cases are not in point, because they existed before the giving of the law. Well, then, to the law let us go: and here we find Moses, under the direction of God, authorising slavery and legislating for it. Read the enactments on the subject.

See Exodus xxi. chap., beginning at the 2d verse.

“*If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve thee; and in the seventh he shall go out free, for nothing. If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him.*

“*If his master have given him a wife, and she have borne him children, the wife and children shall be her master’s; he shall go out by himself.*



*"And if the servant shall say I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out free: then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him unto the door, or the door posts; and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall serve him forever."*

This was the law concerning Hebrew servants: and in this law we see a feature which has ever been regarded as the most abhorrent in slavery, and that is, that husbands could be torn from their wives, and fathers from their children: and that hard condition could only be avoided by another condition equally hard, which was that the husband and father became a slave *for life*, or until the year of Jubilee, after his six years of servitude had expired.

But the children of Israel were freely allowed to purchase slaves of the heathen around them, and these slaves were to serve them during their natural lives: and they were allowed to take as many slaves in war as they were able, except in those cases in which the whole nation was devoted to the sword by the command of God.

Slavery, then, in all its features, was in full existence among the Jews, and sanctioned by the divine law. And by that law a man and all his family could be sold for debt, and had to serve until the year of Jubilee; when a general emancipation took place among Jewish slaves and debtors, and all things became as they were: but as this occurred only every fifty years, thousands must have been born and died in a state of slavery even of the Jewish nation.

But it may be said that this was under the law, and not in accordance with the gospel dispensation, which proclaims "liberty to the captive," &c.

Let us then go to the New Testament, and see what it says—for under that dispensation we now are—and that, and that *alone*, is the law and rule of our conduct; and most cheerfully and willingly do I commit the whole burden of this question, with all its issues, on this ground.

There never was, since the world began, a truer and firmer friend to man, and civil and religious liberty, than St. Paul, after his conversion to Christianity: and yet he taught any thing but the doctrine of abolitionism; it received neither encouragement nor sanction from him, but the contrary. But let him speak for himself.

Read first Corinthians, vii. chap. and 20th and 21st verses. *"Let every man abide in the calling wherein he was called. Art thou called*

*(converted) being a servant, care not for it; but if thou mayest be free, use it rather."*

Here it is necessary to explain, that certain over-zealous and ignorant persons among the first converts, thought and taught that Christianity nullified all conditions and social stations of life, and of civil society.

Taking the idea of a community of goods from what had existed a little while at Jerusalem, in the first heat and fervor of religious enthusiasm among the first converts there, they identified this with Christianity, and taught it as one of its doctrines and duties: and from a misapprehension of gospel liberty and privilege, they considered that converted slaves were no longer under obedience to their masters, especially if those masters were *unconverted Gentiles*—and that converts were not required to obey *heathen* magistrates and governors. Both these errors Paul labors in this epistle to rectify; by teaching that it is not the design or tendency of the gospel to abrogate any of the institutions of society, political or natural, but, leaving them just as it finds them, it rectifies all existing evils and abuses pertaining to them, by rectifying the human will, enlightening the human conscience, and purifying the human heart, and ultimately removing all *external* evils by destroying all *internal* ones. This he taught; and all this is comprehended in this great moral principle, viz:

*"Let every man abide in whatever calling—an honest one of course, in which he is called—converted. And to the servants or slaves who were converted in servitude, be not discontented with your condition, and obey your masters in all things; but, if you can by any lawful means obtain your liberty, do so. Now, all that is implied in this privilege, is just simply the recognition of a custom everywhere in use where slavery existed; by which freedom was obtained, as the slave and his master could agree upon terms.*

Hear Paul again to the Ephesians, vi. chap. and 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th verses. *"Servants be obedient to your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart as unto Christ. Not with eye service as men pleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will doing service as to the Lord and not unto men, knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.*

There are a few points in this quotation that demand particular

attention—such as “the *servants of Christ doing the will of God from the heart—with good will doing service as to the Lord, and not unto men.*” Now, what is this but the admission that slavery as existing in the apostle’s days, received the approbation of God, and was in unison with his will. And we remark in view of this quotation, that the existence of slavery, instead of being nullified by the gospel, was actually sanctioned by it: and to the natural and civil obligations already resting upon the slave to obey his master, is superadded the higher authority of moral and religious obligation. And the relationship existing between master and servant, is placed upon new and more sacred grounds than ever; over and around which the gospel of peace and love throws her fostering influence; and sheds the light of her countenance upon it. See also Colossians, iii. chap. and 22d verse, and I Peter, ii. chap. and 18th verse, in which the same doctrine is inculcated by both Paul and Peter. And we wish you to observe, that, in these epistles, these two eminent apostles connect the duties and obligations of servants with all the other duties of life; the civil, the conjugal, the parental and the filial: thereby showing that all these relationships, duties and obligations, have all come under the supreme authority of the obligation to obey the gospel; and that they are all alike sanctioned and sustained by the gospel dispensation: and, therefore, by a just and logical deduction, to tamper in any way with slaves, so as to excite them to revolutionary action, or cause them to render an unwilling obedience to their master, is just as criminal, and as much a disregard of the authority of God and Christ, as it would be to excite to rebellion, citizens against their governors, wives against their husbands, and children against their parents. The abolitionists may plead humanity and religion in justification of all they say and do, and they may be honest and conscientious too, but here are the law and the testimony of the head of the church: here are unequivocal scriptural facts and precepts, which no sophistry can entangle, no ingenuity can weaken, and no explanation destroy. But alas! how often is scripture set aside or compromised by men calling themselves Christians, and assuming the ministerial robe, in order to establish and carry out their own systems of false philanthropy and religion. We know—for such is the history of our race—that men have violated every precept in the Christian religion, and all *for* religion; and every principle of humanity, *for* humanity: and that the demon of malignity on the altar of benevolence has ever held

his richest and sweetest banquets: and we know also, that even honesty and conscience, when not guided by truth and knowledge, are as terrible and desolating in their career, as the worst passions of the human heart. How important then, to have the revealed will of God, and how necessary that we should be guided, in all things involving the deepest consequences, by its positive and unequivocal precepts alone. But whenever we undertake to *hunt* for the will and purposes of God in his word, and which he has not revealed to us, you may rest assured that ninety-nine times out of every hundred, we return from the investigation with *our own wills*, and with *our own purposes*, which we mistake for the will and purposes of God: and it is then and there, where we least expect it, that pride has been most triumphant, and Satan most successful over us.

We will give you one extract more from the writings of Paul on this subject—one which, of itself, is sufficient to settle the question, were there nothing more, contained in his first epistle to Timothy, from the first to the sixth verse of the vi. chapter.

*“Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, that the name of God be not blasphemed. And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them; because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort. If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; he is proud, knowing nothing; but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railing, evil surmisings, perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness; from such withdraw thyself.”*

In meditating upon this passage, we are almost disposed to believe that the inspired apostle had the whole *phalanx* of abolitionists in prospective, and that he was present, in spirit, at one of their conventions: for certainly never were the characters of a set of men so truly and faithfully drawn; every feature and lineament here given, is true to the living characters and conduct of these men.

How perfectly applicable is this *“doting about questions and strifes of words”* to our modern abolitionists. See what a variety of questions and measures distract their councils and assemblies! What a changing of grounds—what a vailing of purposes—and what

a winding and counterwinding of designs—and, in order to allay the fears and vigilance of the south, what a shrinking *from*, and a denial of, the sentiments of their doctrine; so that no man in their ranks, who is in office or desires one, will avow himself an abolitionist. And as some men—their agents, and lectures are handsomely paid for, their incendiary labors, they may, and do—no uncommon mistake—“suppose that gain is godliness.” The picture is complete, and there is no mistake in finding the living portraits.

From such men Timothy was commanded to withdraw himself; and, as a minister of the Lord, he was to teach and exhort servants to be obedient to their masters—and Paul calls these instructions “*wholesome words—even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

The present controversy then is not between us and the abolitionists—but between them and Paul, or rather between *them* and *Christ*; in which position I leave them. Abolitionists tell us that no slave-holder can be a Christian. But here again they and Paul are at issue. Paul tells us that there *are believing masters*, as well as believing servants, and that both are the *servants* of Christ. Will the abolitionists unchristianize Paul and Peter, and Timothy? They all sanctioned the existence of slavery in the primitive church: and it devolves now upon the abolitionists to show *when* these precepts authorising slavery were revoked, and that too by the same authority that first gave them.

Again: the abolitionists have declared that those churches in which slavery exists “*are the synagogues of Satan.*” Modest assurance truly! So then, the Corinthian, the Ephesian and the Collossian’s churches, and all the others which the apostles planted, were the synagogues of Satan! Fanaticism sometimes plays strange pranks with her votaries, and places them in awkward and ridiculous attitudes. And there is nothing like religious fanaticism to make men play the fool on the largest and broadest scale of folly and madness—where their insane words and actions are sufficient to provoke

“The loudest laugh of hell.”

And yet none talk so much about *duty* and the *will* of God as they; while they overlook the fact, that the *word* of is the *will* of God to us—and that, outside the circumference of that revelation, we are as profoundly ignorant of his will as the infant of an hour. And they overlook another fact, which is, that the positive and unequivocal

cal precepts and commands of God contain the sum of our duties to him and our fellow men, and only when we perform these duties in obedience to him, we do the will of our Heavenly Father—and then, and only then, do we work righteousness—the *righteousness of God in Christ*.

But it is no uncommon thing for men to mistake their own wills for the will of God—and their fierce and malignant passions for zeal for the glory of God: their duty is identified with the performance of their wills and the gratification of their unhallowed passions—and doctrines the most absurd—conduct the most irrational—and deeds the most unchristian—are advanced, exhibited and performed: and this is *self-righteousness*; for *self* is the source of it all—a righteousness which few can understand—though many have it—a righteousness that, in the judgment of the sanctuary, “*is filthy and rotten rags.*”

Slavery, then, instead of being prohibited by Christianity and her first teachers, was actually sanctioned by her and them—and, therefore, *abolitionism* is *anti-scriptural* and *anti-Christian*. Nor was the *right* and *Christian propriety* of holding slaves ever called in question until modern times—in which men have discovered more than ever God revealed, and have imposed more upon the church and the world than ever God enjoined—while they have erected other standards and tests of Christian character than what the son of God has furnished. The gospel, both in its *letter* and *spirit*, is almost as much *made void* by the *traditions* and *inventions* of man, as was the *law*, by the traditions of the Elders—the Scribes—and the Pharisees. And while these pests of the Jewish commonwealth were daily trampling the law under their feet, they were still appealing to Moses and to that law; and so is it now. It is the cry of “Lord, Lord”—but a disregard of what that Lord enjoins.

We ask you, then, if we have not, by scriptural fact and argument, demonstrated that *slavery is consistent with Christianity*? And that there is nothing morally wrong in holding slaves.

I have no personal motive in conducting the question to such a conclusion. I am neither a slave-holder, nor a resident of a slave-holding state; and never expect to be either. Time was, when I entertained sentiments just the opposite of those here expressed—but they were the sentiments of education, ignorance and prejudice. But a question of such tremendous magnitude must be considered as becomes its importance: and as I early adopted the plan of carry-

ing every question and difficulty involving important results to the word of God, refusing to take the *dogmas* and *authoritative opinions* of any man or set of men; to the Bible I went—and the result you have given you to-day. My mind is now completely at rest on this subject; for I rest on scriptural fact and scriptural argument—on “*Thus saith the Lord.*”

But, though we have clearly demonstrated that slavery is consistent with Christianity, yet I am willing to change the form of the question, and meet the anti-slavery party on the grounds of concession, that slavery is an evil; I am willing to allow them so much—and yet defend its existence also, on *biblical grounds*, and by *scriptural examples*. This may appear as a solicism; but let us try it. There are more truths in the Bible than were ever deemed or conceived in our *lean* and *sterile* systems of theology—on which, if immortal souls feed alone, they will become as lean and sterile too. The masterly and arbitrary opinions of men have set bounds to that book whose depths are fathomless, and whose stores and treasures are exhaustless.

*There are certain evils of a social character, that may exist in combination with the essential elements of social life—to destroy which by hasty and violent measures, is a far greater evil; and, in such cases, the existing and lesser evil is under the protection of Heaven.*

The novelty and boldness of this position may startle you, but it is susceptible of the clearest demonstration from the word of God.

When the children of Israel became tired of their theocracy, and captivated with the pomp and pageantry of regal government, they demanded a king from Samuel. Now this was downright rebellion against God, and so he informed Samuel, who, in turn, informed Israel, declaring that their request was a political rejection of God. But, as both nations and individuals can only be cured sometimes of their folly by letting them have their own ways. God, at length, yielded to their importunities; and, after informing them what a king would do unto them, granted them one. And although such a change in the political economy of Israel, was in direct opposition to the will of God, (*so much for the Divine right of kings*) yet, when a regal government was established in Israel—and when every thing became adapted to that form of government—and when the safety, the prosperity and the happiness of all, became identified and interwoven with the existence and preservation of that government and of the king, then wo to him who raised his regicide hand

against "*the Lord's anointed.*" And now, that which *was* contrary to the mind and will of God receives his *protection and approbation.*

Take another example. When John the Baptist commenced his public ministrations, among the many that came to him for advice and counsel, were some soldiers of the Roman army then quartered in Judea, saying unto him "*And what shall we do?*" Now, when we consider that war is one of the greatest evils of our world—that it is in direct opposition to the letter and spirit of the gospel of peace, life and love; and that John came to prepare the way for that gospel by removing the obstructions out of the way—the greatest of which is war; when we consider all these things, it would have been expected that John would have commanded these soldiers to throw down their arms, desert their colors, return to their homes, and "learn war no more." Such would have been the answer from a member of a "Non-resistance society," had the world been *wise* enough then to have had one. But what was John's answer—"Do violence to no man—neither accuse any falsely—AND BE CONTENT WITH YOUR WAGES." Here observe that the latter clause in these instructions to the soldiers is equivalent to a command to remain in the army and pursue the trade of war: and the former part was a rule for their observance while not engaged in active warfare. Had John commanded these soldiers to desert their ranks, he would have been arrested for treason and rebellion; and the Roman tribunes would have spared Herod the crime of murdering the forerunner of Christ. They would have put him to death for other and better reasons than to gratify a wicked mother and a silly daughter.

That war is an evil of the highest magnitude, is true—that it is contrary to the letter and spirit of the gospel, is equally true—and that the spirit of the gospel will eventually exterminate war by exterminating the evil passions of men, that generate war, is no less true. But until the spirit of the gospel becomes the spirit of the nations, and the principles of the gospel the laws of nations, wars, sometimes, will be unavoidable, and armies will be necessary: I mean *defensive* wars, for *aggressive* wars are always wrong, and never justifiable. And, therefore, to require men and nations to lay down their arms, and disband their armies, while the *spirit* of war is still in their hearts, is attempting to heal a great and sore disease by attacking the *effect* instead of the *cause*.



Take another example in support of our position. The Scribes and Pharisees, with that craft, cunning and duplicity always characteristic of religious and political jesuits, employed every stratagem to entrap the Redeemer, so as to make him commit himself on some great question of religion or politics, came to him on one occasion, and with the subtlety of their father—the Devil—intending to take him by surprise, thus addressed him:” “Master, we know that thou regardest not the person of any man, and carest for no man, but teachest the way of God truly: tell us therefore, is it lawful to give tribute to Cæsar or not? Shall we give? or shall we not give?”

It is not possible to conceive a more deep-laid and cunningly contrived scheme to entrap an innocent person, than this, which was the master-piece of deceit of these serpents and vipers, as John truly called them. There is the insidious manner of address—the appeal to human vanity, the delicate and subtile flattery, that Delilah, that has destroyed stronger Sampsons than he of old.

They no doubt expected, that, as the Redeemer came in the character of a deliverer and also a king, that he would at once have told them to pay no tribute to Cæsar; and then they would have accused him to Cæsar for rebellion: or, should he answer in the affirmative, then they could accuse him of imposture and hypocrisy. Either way they had him sure: and how they must have chuckled with delight at the certainty of success this time. But how must they have stared at him, and one another, when he said “*Shew me a penny.*” And what a suppressed whisper must have run round this circle of serpents. “A penny? why, what is the fellow going to do with a penny?” And when the penny was presented to him, and the question asked, “Whose image and superscription are these;” and being told, “Cæsar’s”—how confounding and crushing the declaration—“*Render to Cæsar the things that are Cæsar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.*”

Look, then, at the facts and circumstances of the case before us. Here we see the Redeemer, the son of God, sovereign Lord of all—and to whom every knee must ultimately bow, submitting and requiring submission to *what?*—to a government whose policy was founded in blood, cruelty and rapine—a government as opposite in spirit and principle to the kingdom of Christ, as good is to evil—and a government too at that very time, by taxation and oppression, that was squeezing the life and soul out of the very nation, which the son of God came to redeem—and carrying the principle of his

obedience so far too, to that heathen empire and emperor, as to work a miracle, to obtain the necessary sum to pay the required tax—yes, to that same Cæsar who is to receive his eternal doom and destiny from his lips.

The parable of the tares and the wheat is another example in proof of our position; and is, perhaps, more in point than any of the others that have been cited; as it is a full illustration of our position, and of the condition of slavery at this time in our country, which has become so incorporated and interlaced with the whole fabric of social life, domestic, civil and political, identifying its very existence, that to abolish slavery by immediate emancipation, would be to tear up society by the roots—and would be the destruction of master and servant—or a practical exemplification of attempting to separate the tares from the wheat. And, therefore, if slavery is an evil, it is like those evils contained in the foregoing examples given from the word of God—and is under the eye and protection of Heaven for the present: and, therefore, abolitionists should pause and reflect, lest they be found fighting against God.

These examples, which we have drawn from the word of God, contain a vast fund of instruction to all, especially to statesmen who have the welfare of their country at heart; but to none would they prove so profitable as to abolitionists, if they would but study them.

Do nothing before the time; and wait for the “fullness of time,” by watching “the signs of the times,” is a safe and wise rule: but in this *helter skelter* and headlong age, it is lost sight of; and men who are too *lazy* to learn, too *stupid* to understand, and too *impatient* to wait, substitute *zeal* for knowledge, and *action* for wisdom, prudence and talent—and their fanaticism assures them that God stands committed to *second* all their plans and purposes.

We will now proceed to file our objections to the doctrine of abolitionism.

We object to it in the first place, because what it demands is *legally* and *politically* unjust. We have disposed of the *moral* division of this question on biblical grounds, and we will now look at its *legal* and *political* aspect. Slaves, as property, are as much *legitimated* by legislative enactments and safeguards, as any species of property in our country, in lawful possession; and, therefore, it is the height of presumption and injustice to ask the slave-holder to surrender up *this* species of property—which gives to his other property whatever value it may possess. It is the insolent demand of

rank *agrarianism*. On what principle, then, can the abolitionists rest this demand? They have neither *biblical*, *legal*, nor *constitutional* grounds on which to base this demand—for all *three* are against them; because, when the several states entered into a national confederacy, and when each surrendered up certain rights and powers, the slave-holding states demanded and *received* the privilege of being unmolested by the general government of the confederacy in the permission to retain their slaves—and, therefore, by the terms of the compact, the sentiments and demands of the abolitionists, is an *impudent*, *illegal* and *unconstitutional* intermeddling with the *sacred*, *legal* and *political rights* of others—rights that are secured to them by the Bible, the laws and constitution of their country. And it is sheer mockery, and little short of blasphemy to cover such proceedings and designs with the *specious* and *imposing* names of philanthropy and religion. More *blood* has been shed, more *injustice* committed, and more *cruelty* perpetrated, under these names, than in any other way.

But, say the abolitionists, by *construction* and *expediency* we can make abolitionism constitutional and right.

The doctrine of construction and expediency, when adopted as the rule of interpretation and action, will destroy any constitution that ever was framed by God or man, and has done it. It is one of the most *potent* and *convenient* powers in the world, for it will give you any thing you please, *how* you please, *when* you please, and *where* you please. It is the *genteel*, the *patriotic* and *religious* mode of gratifying pride, ambition, or any other unsanctified passion of the human mind. It can reconcile all contradictions, render practicable all impossibilities, authorise all kinds of absurdities, sanction all kinds of fooleries, and justify all kinds of cruelties. What has not this doctrine of construction and expediency done with the word of God? and with the church of Christ? It has made the former utter sentiments and doctrines the most absurd—and led to practice the most *irrational*, not to say wicked—and established “isms” impossible to folly herself—while it has made the latter an arena for ecclesiastical gladiators to display their skill and bravery in, for the amusement and amazement of those who have no more to do, and no more sense than to gaze at men, who might be more wisely employed. Yes, and it has taught men, and *Christian* men, the art of hating and biting one another *scientifically* and *systematically*. So much for *construction* and *expediency*.

I object to abolitionism, in the second place, because it is intimately connected with, and leads to *amalgamation*. It is now proposed to give the blacks all *civil* and *political* rights and privileges: but there are certain *social* rights and privileges which are essential to perfect freedom, and which men value as highly as they do the others: and by giving to the blacks the *former*, is giving them a right to demand the latter, which is, to sit with you at your tables, to lodge with you in your chambers, to mingle and participate in your social amusements, and to take your daughters and sisters to be their wives, and give their daughters to be your wives. And how can you withhold from them those privileges which you give to all others? If you *emancipate*, you must also *amalgamate*. You must go the whole extent of the principle of liberty and privilege, if you begin—otherwise you compromise the matter, and deceive the blacks.

I object to it, in the third place, because it is founded upon, and tends to *agrarianism*. That morbid and sentimental philanthropy which, at a distance, and in imagination, contemplates the difference between the slave and his master, may soon turn its compassionate eye to more proximate inequalities of life, rank and riches, and demand that the *millionaries* and others of less fortunes, divide with the children of poverty and want: insisting that as "*all men are born free and equal*," it is no more than right, and the will of God, that they also *live free and equal*. And it would be quite as just and reasonable to make *that* a *religious* and *political* question as abolitionism.

I object to it, in the fourth place, because it would be an act of positive inhumanity to the negroes; for there is no class of beings on earth so incompetent to provide for, and take care of, themselves, as the slaves of the south. And this is natural and inevitable, from the fact of being provided for, and taken care of, from infancy till death: and, therefore, to turn them loose with no more experience than they have, would be like a parent turning his helpless children out upon the world to get along as well as they could. And look at the condition of the free blacks here in the north, where they have been free for two or three generations, and what are the facts in reference to their habits and characters? How do they live?—Your *cellars*, your *corn houses*, your *poultry yards* can answer that question. And go to New York, and there, in her negro population, you will see the utmost limits of *moral degradation* and *physical*

*destitution.* And emancipate the slaves of the south, and the result would be, that while a few would resort to voluntary labor, the great mass of them would become idle and profligate, and, allured by that mistaken philanthropy which set them free, they would bend their steps northward.

And, therefore, I object to it, in the fifth place, because an influx of free negroes from the south, would have a most pernicious and disastrous influence upon the honest, industrious and virtuous poor, residing on the confines of the now slave-holding states. Those blacks, finding that they must work or starve, would, in order to get employment, work for lower wages than the white man received, who would be thrown out of employ: and pauperism and its concomitant taxes would rapidly increase; and for one thief you now have, you would have five or ten—and *loafers, beggars and vagabonds* in proportion; with your jails and almshouses filled to overflowing.

I object to it, in the sixth place, because its doctrines are at war with the order and constitution of God's economy.

One of the leading doctrines of abolitionists is the silly and ideal sentiment of *perfect* equality, to which they would bring all things in social life. But, in this, they are waging a hopeless war against the arrangements and dispensations of God; for there is not a single *fact* or *analogy* in either the world of matter nor the world of mind to support this silly and ideal sentiment. There is no such thing as absolute equality anywhere—nor can such a thing exist among the creatures of God any more than *absolute independence*. Nor is it *equality*, but *inequality* that produces order and harmony in the universe of God.

The three sons of Noah were not equal—nor were the blessings pronounced upon Shem and Japheth equal. Japheth was, by the conditions of that blessing, made superior to Shem—and that superiority he does and ever will retain. *Japheth* has the start of *Shem*, and he will keep it; and *Shem* has the start of *Ham*, and he will keep that too. And so it is with all the divisions and sub-divisions of the *three great families of man*.

Society in all ages and nations resembles a *snake* with its head and tail: the tail may now be where the head was—but the head is still as far in advance of the tail, as at the beginning; nor can the tail ever overtake the head. And just so is it with the fabric of society. The servants of the nobility of Europe, are, at this time,

in possession of more intelligence, and more of the comforts and elegancies of life, than the nobility five hundred years ago knew or enjoyed; and yet the difference between them is as great *now* as it was then; or, according to our figure, the *tail* of European society, is now where the *head* once was; but the two extremities are as far apart as ever. The poor now, in many countries, are better fed, clothed and lodged, than were the rich a few centuries ago; but still the gulf is as wide between these two classes as ever. And so it is with the learned and the ignorant.

Christianity has no hostility *to*, or quarrel *with*, this constitution of society, and this distinction of classes, as many of her ignorant professors and teachers imagine and affirm; nor is it her purpose to destroy or level these distinctions; nor could she do it, if she would, for the causes producing these things, are beyond her reach, lying in the constitution of mind which God has given to man. The object of Christianity is to improve all, and make all happy by making them contented with whatever station or lot Providence has assigned them. And as she found slavery on earth, with the other institutions of society, and interwoven with them all—and, as she did not forbid it then, she may permit it even to the end of the world, and amid all the splendors of the *millennial noon*: and under her benign and improving influence, the condition of the slave *may* and *will* be such that even liberty could present no charms to him; for we have known instances in which emancipated slaves have returned to voluntary slavery.

But many make *slavery* and *cruelty* synonymous and convertible terms. That they are sometimes found in connection is no more proof that they are *one* and *inseparable*, than is the fact that tyranny is sometimes found in connection with government, and infidelity sometimes in the conjugal state; and treachery sometimes with friendship; and cruelty sometimes with parents; a proof that all these are *one* and *inseparable*. These are *incidental* evils, and not necessarily connected with, or growing out of, these institutions. And the object of Christianity is not to abolish these institutions, but only the evils that may be found in connection with them; and to place the institutions themselves on loftier and better grounds than they ever knew. The governmental upon stronger and safer, the conjugal upon holier and tenderer, the friendly upon truer and firmer, and the parental upon loftier and nobler: and as she connected slavery with all these, from the beginning, under the all-

pervading sanction of moral obligation, she may do so until her mediatorial reign shall cease.

In closing this lecture, I would address a few words to abolitionists, not so much for the purpose of admonition, for fanaticism of every kind, is invulnerable to argument, and insensible to entreaty, as it is reckless of consequences; but in order to vindicate the character of the slave-holders of the south.

The abolitionists, as a body, are *most grossly ignorant* of the condition of the slaves. Nine-tenths of them have never been in a slave state—and those of them who have been there, have gone for the purpose of “*collecting facts*” to report at the next annual convention; or, if not for this purpose, they have passed through the slave states with the velocity of modern travelling, with as little opportunity for correct observation as the *Trollopes*, the *Halls*, the *Hamiltons* and the *Maryatts*, who have given us the *slang* of Mississippi boatmen—the profanity of *low bar-rooms*, and the vulgarity of *grooms* and *ostlers*, as specimens of American manners and republican gentility.

Such hasty and inconsiderate *generalizations*, is proof of an uneducated mind; a want of discrimination, or, a most disingenuous and unmanly heart. And because some monsters in the south, though they are few and far between, treat their slaves with inhumanity, just as some husbands, parents and masters in the north, and everywhere else, treat their wives, children and apprentices, with cruelty, these sage abolitionists generalize the conclusions from those insulated cases that such are the universal treatment of the slaves, and, in their meetings, they report accordingly. In this they are equal to those *voracious* tourists—those *pinks* of English chivalry, of whom we have spoken.

Now, it would be nothing more than what the “*Lex talianis*,” the law of retaliation, would authorize, if a committee were appointed in the south to send their agents to the north, “to collect facts”—of husbands abusing their wives, parents their children, and masters their apprentices—and the whole reported in convention, published in the newspapers, and the scenes stamped on pocket handkerchiefs, and extensively circulated. These are the *beauties* and *delicacies* of fanaticism.

Now, I can truly say, that, during several years’ residence in the south, I have lived in families owning hundreds of negroes; and never saw any unnecessary severity, or wanton cruelty: but, on

the contrary, ever saw the slaves treated with kindness and humanity, indeed, often with more than was judicious. And here I would inform the abolitionists that they are depriving the slaves of many privileges and advantages, by their incendiary doings. They are the *worst* enemy the slave now has.

It has been my painful duty to officiate on funeral occasions, while in the south, and never have I seen grief so deep and genuine as that of the slaves whose master or mistress had gone to the place appointed to all living.

And I have often beheld the graceful and accomplished lady of the south, in the hut of the sick and dying negro, ministering that assistance and comfort, which derive half their efficacy from the hand and the voice that impart them; and which woman is so ready, and knows so well, how to administer. And, perhaps, at the very time they were doing these things, in soothing the pains of the body or the worse pains of the mind, and smoothing the dark path of the dying, their sisters of the north were holding conventions, preparing reports, forming committees of correspondence, drawing up remonstrances against their sisters of the south, and denouncing slavery as a heaven-daring sin, and slave-holders as the chief of sinners: or listening to some "godly young man" with brains as thin and shallow as his beard, and whose sphere of knowledge extends no further than the circle of his neighborhood, delivering himself of a rhapsody of solemn nonsense and falsehood, respecting a subject that he and his gaping and admiring audience knew as little as the Kahn of Tartary does of the policy and government of this country. And what is the *worth* of all this masculine and feminine talking and vamping? Is a single slave set free?—not one. Is the first breach made on the rampart of slavery? no. Are the fetters of the slave relaxed? no—but rather tightened and increased. Abolitionism then is as foolish as it is wicked, lawless and reckless: and the time will come when it will be regarded as wicked and absurd as "witch burning" is now; though the time was when *that* was considered a holy and righteous measure.

I say nothing of the indelicacy of woman stepping out of the quiet walks of domestic life, to which alone her God has consigned her—and to which alone her nature adapts her; and obtruding her person and voice where those of man should alone be seen and heard. I say nothing of the impropriety as well as unfitness of woman engaging in *public* scenes and public affairs of any kind.



This is actually *unsex*ing herself; and compromising, if not destroying that mystic influence—that sacred charm—that halo of divinity, which her Creator has thrown around her; and which, more than any thing else, holds the wickedness of this world in awe and restraint, but which too much public exposure degrades, and familiarity destroys. And I say nothing of the downright immodesty of woman teaching, by her example, the first practical lessons of amalgamation. But I forbear, and by forbearance respect them more than they respect themselves. It is only by keeping inside the domestic circle, that woman's powers and influence can be preserved and felt. Stepping beyond this, she leaves them all behind: and the decrease of her influence—her love and respect will ever be, just in proportion to the extent of her aberrations from the domestic sanctuary.

Woman mistakes her station in life—she mistakes her position in society—she mistakes the way of meeting her destiny and its corresponding responsibilities, of “being a help meet to man”—and she mistakes the measure of her influence on society and the world, in supposing that, on the public theatre of life, and amid scenes of public activity, she could increase her influence and usefulness.

This is called the “age of benevolence;” and some persons appear to have gone mad with the love of benevolence, at least they are mad with every body who will not be as benevolent as themselves; and, by abuse, scurrility and persecution *prove how benevolent* they are. They can talk of nothing but “benevolence.” This is the “Shibboleth” of the age, and of all sects and parties. A world of charms and enchantments dwell in the single word. And justice, judgment, truth, righteousness, yea, and humanity itself, are often sacrificed on the altar of this *popular deity*. This benevolence has exploded the doctrine of all future punishment, and allowing men to enjoy themselves here, and play the fool and devil up to “the top of their bent,” will carry them to the paradise above, to revel in eternal enjoyments there.

There are hundreds of abolitionists—I quote their own language—who are *so benevolent*, that they could see every slave owner butchered in cold blood by his slaves—his family ruined and beggared—and the entire south turned into a waste howling wilderness. And the parliament of England was so benevolent of late as to wring *twenty millions sterling* from her oppressed, starving and over-wrought population at home, to emancipate her slaves in the

West Indies, which slaves labored less, and were better fed, clothed and lodged, than half the operatives of England; by which their masters were ruined, the condition of the slaves made rather worse; and the poor laborer of England must work harder, eat less, and sleep less in order to raise those 20,000,000, by which no body was benefited but the agents who managed this ridiculous farce. This is benevolence *with a vengeance*.

Time would fail me in noticing all such benevolent transactions of this age. The age of humbugs would be a more appropriate designation.

There are other features in the question of slavery that are of great importance, on which I have not touched, as they belong rather to the statesman and political economist than the divine and moralist. We have considered the question only in its *moral, legal* and *constitutional* bearing, and found ourselves sustained by the truth of God, the laws and constitution of our country. Emancipation would be the ruin of the south, and the ruin of the south would involve the ruin of the north: and the abolitionists would be ruined by the consummation of their wishes. But I apprehend no such an event. Any one who has watched the movements of the age, must have discovered that one excitement, whether *political* or *religious*, is soon run down by another. These are nothing more than "hobbies"—and be the ostensible objects what they may, political or religious, *power* and *place* are the jails for which the riders aim. But where there are so many riders, and all equally acquainted with the *tricks* of the *turf*, they jockey each other out of the course, and out of the *purse*: then another hobby (alias anti) of some kind, must be procured; and another race, and another failure. This, to the philosophic and close observer of human nature and human life, is cause of more amusement than alarm. For certainly it is cause of rejoicing and thanksgiving to see demagogues of any kind *tripping* up each other's heels. *And give me many demagogues, or give me none: one may destroy a country—many destroy each other.*

In conclusion, let me urge upon you the necessity of ever viewing calmly and dispassionately all those agitating measures that distract our country. Never be led away by first appearances; nor let the magic words "benevolence, philanthropy and religion," charm you into every *ephemeral* excitement and movement of the day.

*"In your patience, possess ye your souls." "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."*

In our country, where freedom of opinion is every man's right and privilege, there will be all kinds of opinions expressed, and all kinds of movements and excitements got up: but their existence will, and must be, transient. "A breath can make them, and a breath unmake."

The endless tide of public opinion rolls ceaselessly on, and each wave is swallowed up, by the succeeding. And what though that ocean, at times, looks stormy, rough and angry, and threatens destruction to all upon it: it is but the effervescence of our young, vigorous and healthy, American spirit, that sparkles, flashes, explodes and dies—the mere foam upon the surface; while underneath, lies the pure, clear, deep fountain of sober thought, and vigorous intellect, with moral excellence, that, in the hour of our country's extremity, will supply every needed aid. AMEN.









